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ABSTRACT

The Malta World NGO Forum, which launched the International Year of the Family (IYF) 1994 presented many views supporting the theme of promoting families for the well-being of individuals and societies. This theme reflected the opinion that IYF should be an opportunity to integrate the achievements for family members of previous United Nations (UN) years and by taking a realistic and global approach to the family as "the basic unit of society" and the natural environment for the healthy development of all its members. The summary report provides a summary, concerns, and recommendations in focal areas for action, the Malta Statement on the IYF 1994, and the forum program elements. Some important concerns addressed in the report include: the diversity of families; family needs and problems; the importance of the family; women's rights and the family; the role of the father; family poverty; family health and literacy; and parent-child relationships. (AP)

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Summary Report

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World NGO Forum

Launching the International Year of the Family 1994

"Promoting Families for the Well-Being of Individuals and Societies"

Mediterranean Conference Centre
Malta, 28 November - 2 December 1993

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The Malta World NGO Forum was organized by the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, in co-operation with the United Nations IYF Secretariat and the Government of Malta.

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Contents

Malta World NGO Forum Summary	**5**
Concerns and Recommended Focal Areas for Action	**8**
Malta Statement on the International Year of the Family (IYF) 1994	**15**
Programme Elements	**18**

Malta World NGO Forum Summary: Launching the International Year of the Family 1994

Introduction

The Malta World NGO Forum launching the International Year of the Family had as its theme: "Promoting Families for the Well-Being of Individuals and Societies". This theme reflected the view that IYF should be an opportunity to integrate the achievements for family members of previous UN years by taking a realistic and global approach to the family as the "basic unit of society" and the natural environment for the healthy development of all its members and of every society.

The Forum gave testimony to the fact that IYF has largely been a movement for and with families, and carried by NGOs. It demonstrated also the conviction of governments and leading persons from all over the world that the family urgently needs global attention, concern and prime consideration, as was expressed by the presence and support of leading personalities, either in person or through their representatives (see annex).

Expressions of Gratitude

First and foremost, sincerest thanks have to go to the numerous NGO volunteers associated with the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, and the sister NGO Committees in New York and Paris, whose tireless commitment made this unique mobilizing event possible. Particular recognition has to be given to the NGO-IYF Secretariat in Vienna who contributed so significantly to organizing and rallying the worldwide Forum participation.

Sincere gratitude must be expressed to all solid and dedicated partners and supporters in the organization of the Forum: in particular the people and Government of Malta and the Hon. Dr. Louis Galea, Minister for Home Affairs and Social Development, for their generous hospitality, hosting and strong sponsorship of the Forum; to the Government of Germany, as well as to the Governments of Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland for their substantial support.

In addition, deep appreciation is to be expressed to the United Nations for the powerful political support to the Forum in all recent UN resolutions on IYF, the active contributions of UNICEF and UNESCO, and, in particular, the dynamic promotional efforts of the UN Co-ordinator for IYF, Henryk J. Sokalski, and his staff.

The Spirit of Malta

The family is not a well of perfect harmony and happiness just by itself, said Dennis O. Callagy, Chairman of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family in his opening address to the Forum. Yet it is perhaps the main social institution dealing with our vulnerability as human individuals. Viewing it with realism will keep us from the two extremes of either idealizing or placing over-expectations in the family on the one hand, or, on the other, of condemning it for its inherent vulnerability. Rather, as a key element of truthful realism is hope, we should probe into the question how the family can be assisted to be the place where we can truly be and become ourselves.

The Malta Forum came alive because it was a market-place of great diversity and plurality: not exclusively a conference of social scientists, psychologists and politicians - although many of those were there with important contributions - but mainly because of the presence of representatives from active, small and large organizations who had the opportunity to raise their voices, present their particular problems, show their concern, focus on disquieting developments and speak of their experiences.

During the four days of intensive exchange, the 220 programme contributors to the plenary sessions, 40 workshops and 54 authors' forum presentations, together with the other 800 active participants from over 100 countries had many opportunities to join a growing network of relationships of those concerned with the family. NGO participants came well prepared for their workshops, had formed coalitions beforehand and their attendance showed their unrelenting commitment.

The experience of the meeting was a positive reaffirmation of the existence, resources and essential value of the family in modern society, and of the necessity to search for successful actions towards "family-friendly societies" in IYF and beyond. The message of the Forum was that the family is worthwhile to be a permanent issue, and a partner, agent and beneficiary in social development into the 21st Century.

Seeds of IYF and Fruits of the Forum

What began as a small but constant trickle of concern for a global approach to issues of families in the mid-eighties, has evolved into a wave of interest, concern, support and action. The impressive numbers of non-governmental, governmental and UN activities to observe IYF 1994 as well as awareness-raising in the general public justifies the hope that further work with and for families throughout the world will continue by obviously and sincerely involved partners from every region of the globe who worry and care about the future nature of our societies.

Apart from some 150 Governments who have moved the issue of families - at least for one year - from the bottom or middle to the top of their agendas, organizations and agencies, governmental or non-governmental, national or international, have begun to recognize and develop a "family-impact" consideration in all social development activities; they have also begun to realize that their decisions and actions will invariably affect families on how they will be formed and continued, and under what provisions they can function as primary providers and nurturers. A pro-family image has been sparked enabling families to hear about, participate in, and benefit from IYF.

Family Resources

Certainly, the International Year of the Family is not an end in itself nor should it end with 1994. As a world-wide spotlight on the family, it is to mark but the beginning of an on-going process to empower families to recognize their resources and carry out their responsibilities in a changing world, strengthened in ways that increase equality between men and women, and in respect of the diversity of family structures worldwide.

The courage that families show in the face of making everyday-decisions day-in, day-out, dealing with a constant change in their circumstances, could encourage us to examine our motives in order to ensure that we are truly acting on behalf of and for families. Recognizing that families are in the first line of defense and protection against the many obstacles to human well-being, those working with and for families may have to change their approach from a concept of intervention to one of prevention, and to kindle involvement through invitation and not imposition.

Those dedicated to deal with family concerns must understand problems of families as opportunities which may open doors to creative and lasting solutions for the benefit of individuals, families and society. Together we could exert considerable influence over policy makers, by using our organizational capacities as NGOs, and the inherent inner resources of families, including the skills of strengthening the resilience of their individual members, to enable families themselves to be advocates for their own collective and individual interests.

Reflections on the Summary

Since the Forum we have had to face an almost "impossible" task: how to accurately synthesize and faithfully reflect the rich and diverse kaleidoscope of issues, concerns, projects and proposals in a report form that would be both readable and useful as an incentive for participants and other "friends of IYF" for follow-up: reference, networking, advocacy and grassroot actions for and with families beyond 1994. The editorial team, however, felt the obligation to highlight the main concerns regarding families in our changing world, as they were expressed during the various meetings of the Forum, and to provide abstracts of recommendations, proposed activities and reflections corresponding to them.

Amidst the richness of contributions exchanged, there were many more specific deliberations and discussions, proposals and detailed recommendations for action in all parts of the programme: in plenaries, workshops and the authors' forum. Those who wish to obtain complete texts of the presentations may use the list of addresses provided in the annex.

In spite of apparent fragmentation, omissions and oversights, this Summary will, hopefully, serve as a mirror and reminder of the dynamic and multi-faceted Malta "family celebration" as well as a directional signpost towards a society, that knows how to tap the enormous resources of families for the benefit of the families themselves and that of their societies. This spirit is contained in the "Malta Statement of the World NGO Forum Launching the International Year of the Family 1994".

Concerns and Recommended Focal Areas For Action

DIVERSITY OF FAMILIES IN ITSELF NEED NOT MAKE US UNCOMFORTABLE ... HOWEVER, NEITHER EAST NOR WEST SEEM REALLY HAPPY WITH THE PRESENT AND NEAR-FUTURE STATE OF ITS FAMILIES.

Louis Galea

- We must not continue to reduce the family to production and consumption factors; true family reality is a much richer one.
- The family must be the main agent in protecting the Human Rights of its members, especially the vulnerable. It is to answer the needs and promote the potentials of its individuals as physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual beings. Human Rights education must become an ingredient of family life.
- Until recently, families in many parts of the world have had the sole responsibility for the future of their children, which included the choice of a profession and caring for aged members. Today, this responsibility has to be shared with schools and the state who also has to implement international legal instruments. The difficulty for families in this lies in the lack of their material and intellectual resources.
- On their own, families can no longer provide all that children need to grow up well. It needs an interlocking system in which families and accompanying formal and informal networks and services work together.

  The challenge of our time is to arrive at a new relationship between family and the state. The family must, in a new way, become the protagonist of family policy; it must be ensured that laws and state regulations not only do not offend but enhance the role of the family.
- Family policies must address all families not just those at risk. The spectrum of issues is a wide one and will require much further research, thinking and revision.

WE HAVE FAMILIES WITH MULTIPLE PROBLEMS: BUT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO FAMILIES, NEITHER FOR THE REALIZATION OF HUMAN NECESSITIES SUCH AS SAFETY, CONFIDENCE AND LOVE, NOR FOR SECURING THE SOCIALIZATION PROCESS AND SOCIETAL CONTINUITY.

Rudolf Pettinger

- There must be a new awareness of family concerns and needs, even while recognizing that families are in transition and that new and different needs must be addressed. Living conditions have changed, gender roles in the family are changing. There is a plurality of family forms and almost an abolition of compulsory and traditional norms.
- Family policies and family interventions must be based on a careful and verified analysis of family realities, and a comprehensive view on family life - not on untested, implicit assumptions. Such a view has to be based upon a genuine respect for the different forms family life takes in a particular phase of societal development.
- Every dysfunction which besets an individual, be it disability, drug addiction, unemployment, criminality, etc. impacts on his or her family in one way or the other.

Any disability is aggravated by subtle discrimination. Families are crucial in counter-acting such prejudices, and in enhancing potentials and respecting limitations. Let the IYF be an opportunity to give such families support and recognition.

- There are few, if any government policies which do not affect families: tax laws, environmental laws, laws regulating employment, etc. Any law or regulation which does not take account of its impact on families, is likely to hinder rather than assist the enrichment of family life. Just being concerned about day-care facilities, income supplements for the ageing, etc. is not enough.

THE FAMILY IS NOT AN ISLAND LOST IN THE WIDE SEA, BUT A WINDOW THAT OPENS TO THE WORLD.

Louis Roussel

- The family is the natural place to learn democracy, solidarity and forgiving. In the family we experience that we depend on each other. There we can be prepared to live in our community contributing to social justice and being sensitive to local traditions.
- Nuclear families tend to become isolated from the world around them, also from their larger kinship. In many ways family has become a counter-structure to society and lost its social power.
- Educational complementarity between families and schools is slowly evolving. Parents still have the chief responsibility for education, but cannot act alone. However, they must become aware of their own resources.

  Parents need to be listened to in designing educational curricula. Early childhood education is a good investment, but teachers and professionals must have more training in working with both children and parents. Students have to be involved in life education programmes.
- The primary purpose of the media is the transfer of information. Families can profit from this if they use it as a tool for exchange and dialogue; they must, however, be trained to understand the subtle influences media can and do have. On the other hand, families should also exert their influence on the media, by, for example, protesting against the display of violence and pornography.
- Grandparents have a right to enjoy their life as independent individuals. At the same time they, as well as aunts and uncles, have the responsibility to give children a sense of having roots, of extended love and support; to offer much needed encouragement to parents. Relationships with older family-members need particular attention.

FAMILIES REPRESENT MUCH MORE THAN CARING, SUPPORT AND STABILITY. BECAUSE ALL THE DEEPEST HUMAN FEELINGS HAVE THEIR SOURCE IN THE FAMILY, BOTH THE GREATEST GOOD AND THE GREATEST EVIL HAPPEN HERE. THIS IS WHY CLICHÉS AND HOMILIES SO EASILY SOUND FOOLISH.

Richard Jolly

- Celebration of the successes of families is as important as identifying and finding the resources to offset deficits. It is important not just to support parenting skills but also the enjoyment of parenting; to recognize, validate and believe in family potential. Greater self-confidence of family members will enhance their empowerment.
- Families are heroic in their resistance to organized aggression and to lack of understanding from society.

- Training of NGO personnel working with families in practical methods of life-coping skills must aim at encouraging families to build on their own resources and to overcome difficulties by relating to family networks.
- Family break-down, poverty, the situation of refugees, lack of welfare facilities are underlying causes for children to turn to the streets. Street children are either abandoned, or run-aways from broken homes, or put on the street by their parents to earn their living by any way they can, including theft, selling drugs and prostitution. Their situation needs to be made better known, and local NGOs working with them must receive more support.
- Family violence has many facets and may occur against all of its members. Ranging from physical abuse (battering, sexual abuse) to exploitation and neglect, it may be a long-standing feature of relationships in families. Awareness-raising, empowerment of individuals, relating to networks outside the family, learning non-violent methods for conflict-solving, and acquiring new communication skills can change relationships. It is most important to find out what to do instead of violence.

THE FEMINIST ENTERPRISE IS TO EMPOWER WOMEN TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS, BARRING NONE: OPPORTUNITIES MUST INCLUDE FAMILY-CENTERED OCCUPATIONS, JUST AS THE FULL RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES IN THE WORKPLACE.

Princess Sarvath El Hassan

- There should be no worry that IYF will bring about negligence in promoting the rights of women. Improvement of the family environment must be reached by watching over the growth of each of its members.
- Under existing circumstances, in the majority of communites the world over, women will have to be the main focus of efforts to protect the family. Up to now, women are central in family functions: they are mothers, wives, cooks, health and food providers, fuel gatherers, water carriers, house cleaners, emotional support. At the same time they are the least educated, their work is devalued, also by other women, their self-esteem is low. Exhaustion and stress often induces them to resort to violence.
- By setting examples, parents have the greatest influence in setting models for equality and partnership between men and women, boys and girls in their own families.

  NGOs should develop programmes for cooperation with their national governments to ensure that both sexes get truly involved in the implementation of gender equity in the family, and that at all levels of schooling concepts of gender fairness, partnership, and the understanding of power are disseminated.

  Women and girls must be taught to acquire more self-confidence and to make informed choices regarding their life-styles.
- More and more women want to combine both options, or simply have to combine having children and exercise professional work. They must be provided with the necessary help to make their choice a success.

IN 1773 THE PHILOSOPHER HAMANN SAID: "BEING A FATHER IS THE BEST TRAINING IN HUMILITY AND GENTLENESS."
THE TASK IS FORMIDABLE.

Peter Crowley

- Men's image should depend much more on being a good husband and father, on having a meaningful existence at the heart and not at the periphery of their family.

  Human beings must change their conduct from competition to cooperation.

- How can it be explained that the strength of men so easily turns into violence against women?

- Children and adolescents need a father. A battering father, however, is a horror; and in cases of his absence or withdrawal psychotherapists often find a "phantom father", a symbol replacing the father as a person, which may also exert a negative influence. Children need a real father. By trying to become a more successful father, even in failure, men can become more enriched human beings and be of real help for the full development of sons and daughters.

- Our present focus on the nuclear family probably augments the lonely self-definition of men as being separate from others and hence insecure and exposed to achievement expectations.

- The workplace is presently not supportive for families. It still reflects the outdated assumption that men are breadwinners and women homemakers and supporters.

  There needs to be education and awareness-raising about the interconnectedness of family and work issues with politicians, employers and trade unions. We need more than flexible work hours, affordable on-site child care, paid parental leave. We need reform in the work ethic.

  Some excellent family-friendly practices are emerging which show also good business sense with less absenteeism, less turnover, better morale and higher productivity.

  A checklist on how to make workplaces more family-friendly should be developed. Such workplace practices must also reflect the different needs in different stages of the life-cycle.

THE STRONGEST RESOURCE OF MEMBERS OF POOR FAMILIES IS THEIR MUTUAL BOND OF AFFECTION AND CONFIDENCE. IT NOURISHES THE DYNAMISM OF THE CHILDREN AND THEIR DESIRE TO LEARN AND TO DEVELOP.

Andrée Thomanek

- Our world experiences poverty massively: more than a billion of people are poor. Moreover, besides hunger, homelessness, illiteracy and unemployment, emotional poverty often hits affluent families with the result of empoverished family life.

  Frequently, material poverty exerts a heavy toll on family relationships: parents lack the knowledge on how to stimulate their children, how to take care of physical and mental health needs, how to support them at school, how to make use of social services, etc.

  Yet the majority of the poor hope to found real families. Often they succeed to break through the vicious circle of poverty on the basis of the driving powers of mutual affection and solidarity and when helped by using existing networks of social services.

- This innate power of family-mindedness is often the crucial factor for resilience, the capacity to do well in spite of adverse circumstances, whether material, emotional or spiritual. All children have strengths; if they are built up, their resilience may be increased. Families living under difficult conditions often display great fortitude and embody many elements that increase resilience by mutual confidence and trust.

We need to recognize these strengths and use them to develop resilience in individuals, families and the community.

- Particularly all policies related to housing need to be understood as family policies. Being housed is not just having four walls and a roof, but a space where cultural relations and identity are protected.

  Shelter questions impact on health, nutrition, sanitation, accessibility to employment and education, on family stability and well-being, creativity, social integration.

  As housing touches all spheres of life a high degree of cooperation and involvement of various fields of expertise is needed.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON DECISIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN NOT ONLY BY NATIONS BUT BY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.

Doris Badir

- Families exist within a larger social and physical environment with which they interact every day. From this environment they receive their resources; any changes in their environment impact on their ability to maintain a balance with it. Therefore families must develop skills and knowledge and have to be assisted not just to interact with their environment but also to react to its constant changes.
- Often, policies for family support are determined not by what families and societies most need, but by what government or an agency think they need. Policies have to be developed which will induce families to take charge themselves and not render them into greater dependency.
- Development has to be based on local habits, values, cultures and work techniques and should aim at assuring the basis of life for families.
- The environment is affected by how families live, what they produce, consume and discard. Uncontrolled development of production for consumption purposes and of technical systems may burden the environment beyond supportability. Families as such must learn to resist the temptation to give economy-oriented values priority over family values. It is in the best interest of families to stabilize the environment, which has to be safe, tranquil and positively stimulating.

WE MUST CONCENTRATE INTENSELY ON HELPING FAMILIES COPE WITH LITTLE PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY TURN INTO CATASTROPHES.

Matilda Raffa Cuomo

- Nothing is more important than prevention. Hunger and illiteracy are just symptoms of a larger social and economic disorder: it will take more than just bread or a lesson in the alphabet to amend them, because the many causes for them are deeply intertwined. Strategies for improvement have to be interconnected, too, and their implementation needs utmost cooperation.
- The main agent in providing for health and every-day needs is the family. Basic life skills such as primary health care, household management and budgeting, sound nutrition, sanitation and personal care should be taught from childhood onwards in families but also in schools, in urban areas as well as in rural ones. Household management should primarily aim at the quality of life of all of its members and not just at the attainment of material goods.

- There must also be explicit life-skill training for parents, including communication skills, coping strategies, abilities for diagnosing family resources, validation of family potentials of various kind. Families usually do not have the full scope of such skills, they must, however, strive to implement them in their individual setting.

  Professionals who convey such training must be well-educated and motivated for understanding family processes. Such education must use a participatory system rather than one centering on information giving.

- In cases of severe constraints, families must be encouraged to look for help from outside. Counselling at times of difficulties may help to turn crises into opportunities for transformation. The importance of involving the whole family in therapeutic processes must be stressed.

LIFELONG LEARNING AND RE-LEARNING IS NOT RESTRICTED TO PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE; IT MUST INCLUDE ALSO LEARNING FAMILIAL ROLES.

Rudolf Pettinger

- Although learning in early childhood and adolescence is decisive, new steps of learning must be taken during the whole of the life course. What is true about the necessity of ongoing professional education in our fast changing world, holds true also for learning about family relationships and family behaviour.

- Not just youth, but youth particularly, needs information and education on family life. Such educational endeavours need to be sensitive to family histories; to integrate sexuality education with all other dimensions of life; to be culturally appropriate and respectful; to target both children and parents; to make use of a life-cycle approach. They need to be delivered by well trained teachers and counsellors.

- Likewise, family services should be differentially targetted at a variety of groups: young people; pre-marriage couples; young married parents with young children; teenage mothers and their parents; pregnant women in distress offering a range of practical support; parents and children with relationship difficulties; single parents; families with disabled members; parents with handicapped children, with abused children; families caring for old parents; broken families; refugee and migrant families.

  The principle of these services must be to encourage families to build on their own resources, not to substitute them.

- Children should be explicitly sensitized to life-course development and the ageing process, with all its implications, in their families. Taking care of dying members by their families should be made possible with the help of specially trained personnel.

IN PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS RECOGNIZING THE OTHER AS EQUAL MEANS: WANTING THE CHILD TO LIVE TO HIS OR HER FULL MATURITY AND INDEPENDENCE. THAT WAY, FAMILIES ARE STILL THE SOURCE OF THE FUTURE.

Louis Roussel

- Taking care of the best interests of the child, as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, must not be seen as a threat to the family, but as a challenge.

- For many families, adolescence is a period of crisis. An adolescent is changing and experiences sudden growth. New relationships between children and parents as well as new patterns of life have to be shaped, which often is a long and painful process. Parents frequently react with

failure to understand, anger, anguish, withdrawal, guilt feeling; adolescents may react with depression, psychosomatic disorders, escape into drugs.

Yet the fundamental commitment for education includes that parents respect the drive of the young person to personal identity and autonomy. They must continue with communication, protection, loving and listening attention, providing orientation and legitimate use of authority.

- Counselling may help to turn such situations into steps of growth for all parties concerned. It must not, however, be regarded as a repair-shop, nor as an agency that relieves parents of their task of guidance and support of their children, of continuing to lay the base for their future.
- It is the parents' responsibility to pass on their cultural knowledge and their values. On the other hand, parents must be able to play their part in innovation, which should include resisting radical ideas and their dangerous effects. In a favourable economic and socio-cultural environment, parents can tap extraordinary potentials for growth.

ARE WE DOING ENOUGH TO AMELIORATE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF OUR FAMILIES? HAVE WE, AS INDIVIDUALS, DONE ENOUGH BY FRIENDLY ADVICE OR BY TIMELY HELP, TO AVOID THE BREAK-UP OF A FAMILY?

Censu Tabone

- There is evidence that the resources present in the family as an institution and in society at large are not fully identified and are certainly not fully utilized. State and private interventions on behalf of the family are indispensable; they must, however, enhance the spirit of solidarity and self-reliance, not reduce it.
- Although we believe that families should function for the well-being of its members, we must understand that there may be considerable stress and suffering in family life.
- Grief at bereavement and failure may become bearable if it is embedded in a social texture, because life must go on. Ritualization of grief has to find a new meaning and new forms, which point towards the emergence of still untapped sources of solidarity.
- As the concerns for the family's strengths increase, and our awareness of the amount of affliction of families rises, we should remember the tremendous suffering of families in many parts of the world where civil strife and social instability continue, and devise actions in favour of helpless and voiceless victims.

  Immigration laws favouring families of refugees should be advocated because it is crucial to involve the family in healing processes.
- It is important that NGOs involve youth organizations in their work with families in order to promote the ideal benefits of mutual respect and reciprocal rights and obligations in families among young people. Youth organizations should be won for projects of delivering family support services.
- NGOs should build a strong nationwide and international network of professionals in family work who can, along with families themselves, be advocates for all families worldwide.

Malta Statement on
the International Year of the Family (IYF) 1994

We, the undersigned international non-governmental organizations,

1- **welcome** the launching of the International Year of the Family and the related event, the World NGO Forum in Malta, and are confident that the deliberations at the Forum will assist in creating a world-wide IYF movement. Recalling the active contributions of the NGO sector in the preparations for IYF, the global meeting in Malta is a further expression of the efforts and potential of the non-governmental community at all levels in working for and with families;

2- **recognize** families as intrinsically self-reliant units in society which can, even in adverse external circumstances, regulate their own internal affairs and maintain successful and harmonious relationships;

3- **advocate** policies seeking to empower families as basic social groups, in order to provide continuity, security and dignity to families and their individual members in the light of wide-spread, constant and rapid changes resulting from the interactions between peoples and their environment;

4- **affirm** that families as the fundamental group units of society are entitled to a maximum of protection and assistance to fulfill their roles for the well-being of the individual members and society, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the relevant declarations, principles and resolutions;

5- **reiterate** and **commit** ourselves to the principles and objectives of the International Year of the Family, underlining that stable families are main agents of sustainable development. Such a development depends largely on the social, emotional, spiritual, cultural and political maturity of all family members. In this context, recognition of families demands a comprehensive approach to issues like redistribution of global resources, eradication of poverty, assuring education and health for all;

6- **recognize** the diverse forms and functions of families around the world, on condition that they are fully consistent with the fundamental human rights. IYF is of special relevance in promoting concepts of families and intra-familial relationships which will allow the actual enjoyment of these rights, with special emphasis on gender equality and the rights of minor children;

We, the undersigned international non-governmental organizations,

7- **urge** governments to support the establishment and/or extension of national coordinating bodies for IYF in order to develop concrete action plans at the national, local and community levels, taking into consideration the capacities and self-help potential of families themselves and of the NGOs working at the grassroot level;

8- **request** governments to formulate family-sensitive policies, promoting self-reliance and participation of families, taking into consideration the aspirations and expectations of families themselves. In this regard, a family-friendly society, specific economic and ecological measures

and recognition of the contributions of families in the social, cultural and economic fields are indispensable;

9- **appeal** to governments to consider special joint action with NGOs in such fields as: evaluation of social programmes and their impact on the family; practical research to identify data, articulate family issues and suggest solutions; study of gender issues and identification of measures to ensure equality between males and females of all ages; enhancement of a positive and objective image of family-life in the media; reconciliation of professional life and employment with family obligations; education for family life; family health issues; assistance to families living in extreme poverty; help to refugee and displaced families, including their relationships with their host country and country of origin; development of support and counselling services to families and family members in difficulty or at risk;

10- **invite** governments to support and join NGO initiatives and plans of family movements to celebrate the 15th of May of each year as the International Day of the Family;

11- **request** that "family" should be a specific topic in relevant national and international reports on social issues;

12- **urge** governments to consider the role and function of families and their capacities and needs in the forthcoming meetings of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development. To ensure implementation of IYF plans and activities, family should also be considered in the context of programmes developed for the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the World Summit for Social Development (1995), and the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (1995);

13- **appeal** to governments and the United Nations to undertake adequate follow-up measures to IYF and to enter into an ongoing process of building a family-friendly society;

14- **request** that a declaration on the rights and responsibilities of families be identified as a specific goal in the follow-up to IYF;

In turn and in conformity with our own respective aims, experiences, and competences we, the undersigned international non-governmental organizations,

15- **plan** to explore areas where new and creative actions can be developed to support family resilience and to emphasize the significance of family life for the benefit of its members, thereby empowering them to master their every-day situations and to make decisions on their future;

16- **intend** to continue assuming the responsibility for individualized and flexible services for families, reviewing and revising such assistance programmes regularly by involving families in order to respond most effectively to their needs and expectations;

17- **continue** to review our role as advocates and mediators in representing family strengths and family concerns to politicians, media, educational authorities, employers, employees, specialized organizations and institutions concerned with children, youth, women, men, elderly, disabled, dispossessed, etc;

18- **hope** to develop a new culture of partnership and new patterns of negotiation and cooperation at the national and international levels, promoting formal and informal networks and coalitions to fulfill our vital functions in the interest of families. In doing so, a major emphasis will be placed on effectiveness, transparency and accountability of family-oriented NGO operations.

In conclusion, **we, the undersigned international non-governmental organizations, look** with confidence upon the dawn of the International Year of the Family. We subscribe to its ultimate objective, emphasizing the recognition of values such as caring, sharing, solidarity and responsibility, mutual respect and tolerance, in order to promote the "smallest democracy at the heart of society" in its unique contribution to the achievement of durable peace in the world.

The Malta Statement on the International Year of the Family was signed by over 200 international, national and local NGOs and endorsed by acclamation by the Forum. It is for the first time in history that such a statement on the family has been endorsed by so many NGOs. It was then submitted by the Government of Malta as an official document to the UN General Assembly Launching Session for IYF in New York in December 1993.

Programme Elements

Plenary Sessions

(**Title of Session**; Speaker/Contact Person; Address)

PLENARY I - OPENING CEREMONY

Chairperson: Mr. Dennis O. Callagy
Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, Gonzagagasse 13/8, A-1010 Wien; Austria

Speakers: Hon. Louis Galea
Minister for Home Affairs and Social Development, Malta

Rev. Charles G. Vella
c/o IYF Committee Malta, Ministry for Home Affairs and Social Development, Casa Lioni, St. Joseph's High Road; St. Venera; Malta

Messages: H.E. Boutros Boutros-Ghali/ Secretary-General of the United Nations
His Holiness Pope John Paul II.
First Lady of Costa Rica - Ms. Gloria Bejarano de Calderón
Her Majesty the Queen Sofia of Spain
Ms. Maria Rauch-Kallat, Minister of Environment, Youth and Family, Austria
Mme Simone Veil, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Social Affairs, Health and Urban Affairs, France
The Government of Germany
The Government of Greece/ IYF Committee of Greece
World Council of Churches
World Conference on Religion and Peace

PLENARY II - "FAMILY - SOURCE OF THE FUTURE"

Chairperson: Ms. Alba Zizzamia
New York NGO Committee on the Family, 370 First Avenue, 1E, New York, NY 10010; USA

Speakers: Mr. Louis Roussel
Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques, 27, rue du Commandeur, F-74014 Paris; France

Mr. José Atilio Alvarez
National Council for Youth and the Family, Maipu 169, Buenos Aires 1084; Argentina

Messages: The First Lady of South Africa - Ms. M. de Klerk
Algerian National Co-ordinator for the IYF

PLENARY III - "FAMILIES RELATING TO LARGER NETWORKS"

Chairperson: Ms. Marie-Michèle le Bret
NGO Standing Committee - UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, F-75015 Paris; France

Speakers: Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath El Hassan,
Royal Palace, Amman; Jordan

Mr. Rudolf Pettinger
German Youth Institute, Freibadstraße 30, D-81543 München; Germany

Mr. Rao Chelikani
NGO Standing Committee - UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, F-75015 Paris; France

Message: Tunisian League of Mothers

PLENARY IV - "RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FAMILIES"

Chairpersons: Ms. Rosina Santa Olalla
PRODEFA, Avenida de Baviera 8, E-28028 Madrid; Spain

Ms. Avabai Wadia
International Planned Parenthood Federation, Bajaj Bhavan, Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021; India

Speakers: Mr. Richard Jolly
UNICEF, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017; USA

Ms. Aissata Kane
Organisation Pan-Africaine de la Famille, B.P. 71, Nouakchott; Mauritanie

Ms. Murli Desai
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, P.B. no 8313; Sion Trombay Road, Deonar, Bombay 400 088; India

Ms. Lily Boeykens
International Council of Women, 62 rue Belliard, B-1040 Brussels; Belgium

Ms. Teresa Costa da Macedo
International Union of Family Organizations, 28, Place Saint-Georges, F-75009 Paris Cedex; France

Message: Her Royal Highness Princess of Morocco

PLENARY V; "BUILDING A FAMILY-FRIENDLY SOCIETY"

Chairperson: Mr. Dennis O. Callagy
Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, Gonzagagasse 13/8, A-1010 Wien; Austria

Speakers: Ms. Doris Badir
International Federation for Home Economics, 11418 75th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta; Canada

Ms. Matilda Raffa Cuomo
First Lady of New York State, 138 Eagle Street, Albany, NY 12202; USA

Mr. Henryk J. Sokalski
Co-ordinator UN-IYF Secretariat, United Nations Office Vienna, P.O.Box 500, A-1400 Wien; Austria

Mr. Mohamed Boukhris
National Office for the Family and Population, Tunisia

Hon. Louis Galea
Minister for Home Affairs and Social Development, Malta

H.E. Vincent Tabone
President of the Republic of Malta, Malta

Messages: United Nations Population Fund
African Regional Meeting at the Forum
Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting at the Forum

Workshops

(**Title of Workshop**, Chairperson/Contact Person, Address)

Parents as Partners	Ms. Ruth Hall Family Centre Network, Unit 4, Pride Court; 80-82 White Lion Street, London NI 9PF; United Kingdom
Family and Children's Rights	Mr. Nigel Cantwell Defence for Children International, Case postale 88, CH-1211 Geneva; Switzerland
Family and Child Resilience	Mr. Stefan Vanistendael International Catholic Child Bureau, 65 rue de Lausanne, CH-1202 Geneva; Switzerland
Substitute Families	Mr. Damien Ngabonziza International Social Service, 32, quai du Seujet, CH-1201 Geneva; Switzerland
Affects of Family on the Academic Achievement of Children	Ms. Susanna Harttung Organisation Mondiale pour l'Education Préscolaire, Hoherodskopfstraße 8, D-60435 Frankfurt, Germany
Family and Women	Ms. Catherine Aloo Akoko Kolping Organization of Kenya, P.O.Box 51981, Nairobi; Kenya
Family and Personal Development of Women	Ms. Sabine Walper University of Munich, Leopoldstraße 13, D-80802 München; Germany
Women's Work and Breastfeeding	Ms. Penny van Esterik York University; 4700 Keele Street, North York, Ontario M3J IP3; Canada
Breaking the Equality Barrier: Emerging Roles of Men and Women in the Family	Ms. Linda Kavelin Popov Baha'i International Community, 192 Sun Eagle Drive RR1, Ganges, British Columbia VOS 1EO; Canada
Family and the Elderly	Mr. Mark Gorman HelpAge International, St. James's Walk, London EC1R OBE; United Kingdom
Family and the Disabled	Ms.Justine Kiwanuka Disabled Peoples' International, 101-7 Evergreen Place, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 2T3; Canada
Dealing with Homeless Families	Lt. Colonel Raymond L. Peacock The Salvation Army, 615 Slaters Lane; P.O.Box 269, Alexandria, VA 22313; USA
Family and HIV/AIDS	Mr. Robert Vitillo Caritas Internationalis, Palazzo San Calisto 16, I-00153 Rome; Italy
Family and Violence	Ms. Olive Luena Wanawake Wakatoliki Tanzania/WUCWO, P.O.Box 9361; Dar es Salaam; Tanzania

Family and the Prevention of Substance Abuse	Mr. François Ruegg International Catholic Child Bureau, 65 rue de Lausanne, CH-1202 Geneva 20; Switzerland
Counselling Families with Problems	Mr. Andrea de Domenicis Centro Italiano di Solidarietà, Via Attilio Ambrosini 129, I-00147 Rome; Italy
Family and Values of Society	Mr. Bernhard Jans Familienbund der deutschen Katholiken, Adenauerallee 134; D-53113 Bonn; Germany
Family and Media	Mr. Joseph Borg Media Centre Complex; National Road, Blata 11 - Bajda NMRO2; Malta
Family Law: How does it promote emotional and economic well-being of men, women and children	Mr. David Pearl International Society of Family Law, School of Law, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ; United Kingdom
Strategies for Sucessful Implementation of Family Policies	Ms. Sally Huemmert Alberta Families, Hilltop House; 9910-103 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0X8; Canada
Family and Culture	Ms. Madeleine Péchabrier NGO Standing Committee - UNESCO, 58, rue la Fontaine, F-75016 Paris; France
Family and Education	Ms. Michèle Le Bret NGO Standing Committee - UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, F-75015 Paris; France
Family Life Education	Ms. Malika Ladjali International Planned Parenthood Federation, Regent's College, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NS; United Kingdom
Family and Gender Equity in Education	Ms. Georgianne Baker Women's Studies; Arizona State University; IFHE, Tempe, AZ 85287-1801; USA
Family and Education of Women and Girls	Ms. Selma Sapir International Council of Psychologists, 60 Biltmore Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710; USA
Educational Programs that Enhance Family Well-Being	Ms. Sally K. Williams Iowa State University; 215A MacKay Hall, Ames, Iowa 50011-1120; USA
Human Rights Education in the Family for Sustaining a Democratic Community	Ms. Shulamith Koenig The People's Decade of Human Rights Education, 526 W 111th Street, Suite 4E, New York, NY 10025; USA
Family and Poverty	Ms. Andrée Thomanek Association Internationale des Charités/ATD Fourth World, Albertgasse 19/14, A-1080 Wien; Austria

Family and Resource Management	Ms. Lila Engberg The Canadian Home Economics Association, 93-295 Water Street, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2X5; Canada
Family and Household Economy Management	Ms. Hertje Funke University of Paderborn; Bartningstraße 49, D-64289 Darmstadt; Germany
Family and Values/Needs of Consumption	Mr. Heiko Steffens University of Berlin; IOCU, Franklinstraße 28/29, D-10587 Berlin; Germany
Family and the Workplace	Ms. Joanna Foster IYF National Committee U.K., Yalding House; 152 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AJ; United Kingdom
Family and Environment	Mr. Hermann Knoflacher University of Vienna; IFP; Gußhausstraße 30, A-1040 Wien; Austria
Family and Mobility	Mr. Dieter Witt University of Munich; Inst. f. Sozialökon. d. Haushalts, Vöttinger Straße 12, D-85350 Freising; Germany
Families, Housing and Shelter	Ms. Gladys Silva de Korsmeier Kolping Society of Peru, Thomas Ramsey # 1011, Lima 17; Peru and Mr. Minar Pimple (India) Habitat International Coalition, c/o Frankenslag 313, NL-2582 HM The Hague; The Netherlands
Family and the Mental Health of its Members	Ms. Sigrid Hopf International Council of Psychologists, Begonienstraße 10, D-80939 München; Germany
Family and Health Promotion	Ms. Catherine Cumberbatch Caribbean Association of Home Economics, 4 Woodsbury Park, Diego Martin; Trinidad & Tobago

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Authors' Forum

(Title of Presentation, Speaker/Contact Person, Address)

Family Life Education for Peace	Ms. Nona H. Cannon 3904 Milan Street, San Diego, CA 92107; USA
Shakled Children	Ms. Joanna Koch Associated Country Women of the World, Landstrasse 89, CH-8802 Kirchberg; Switzerland
Families and Children at Risk	Ms. Gabriela Monti Angel d'Elia 2451; San Miguel; Provincia de Buenos Aires; Argentina

The Impact of Armed Conflict on Families	Mr. Eli Breger UAE University; Faculty of Medicine, P.O.Box 17666, Al Ain; United Arab Emirates
Family Ethics and Community Bonds	Ms. Elisabeth Porter The Flinders University of South Australia, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide 5001; Australia
What Policies for what Families?	Mr. Paul Moreau Univ. Catholique de Lyon; Inst. des Sc. de la Famille, 30, Rue Sainte Hélène, F-69002 Lyon; France
Family and the Public Provision of Services	Mr. Bertram Allan Weinert International Federation of Social Workers, 445 East 80th Street, New York, NY 10021; USA
Enhancing the Quality of Life in Rural Areas	Ms. Lesley Ann Greyvenstein Women's Outreach Foundation, P.O.Box 25271, Innesdale; Pretoria 0031; South Africa
From Household Economics to Global Resources	Ms. Anne B. Muir Bath College of Higher Education; Faculty of Home Economics; Newton Park, Bath BA2 9BN; United Kingdom
Family and Paid/Unpaid Work - Family Leave	Ms. Elizabeth B. Goldsmith Florida State University; College of Human Sciences, Tallahassee, Florida; USA
Family and Work: Reconciling the seemingly irreconciliable	Ms. Alice Shalvi Israel Women's Network, P.O.B. 3171, 91037 Jerusalem; Israel
Promoting Health for Older Workers	Ms. Loraine Ashton Eurolink Age, 12 Craneswater Park, Southsea, Hants P04 ONT; United Kingdom
Families in Need as Supported by the Polish Leage of Temperance	Mr. Czeskaw Cekiera Catholic University of Lublin, Olimpijska 82/1, PL-02636 Warszawa; Poland
Preventive Policies for Street Children	Ms. Ana Mon Federación Argentina de Apoyo Familiar, 33 no 1078, 1900 La Plata, Buenos Aires; Argentina
Home and Health in the European Community	Ms. Audrey W. Rose School of Leisure and Food Management, Totley Hall Lane, Sheffield S17 4AB; United Kingdom
Successful Family Involvement in their Children's Education in Multi-Ethnic, Multi-Cultural Communities in the United States	Ms. Jane Carney Schulze North Americans for the IYF, 4340 Aragon Way, San Diego, CA 92115; USA
Education Programmes which Aid Families	Ms. Margaret Jepson Liverpool John Moores Univęrsity, Division of Education and Community Studies, I M Marsh Campus; Barkhill Road, Liverpool L17 6BD; United Kingdom

Young People and their Families	Ms. Gill Jones University of Edinburgh, Centre for Education Sociology, 7 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LW; United Kingdom
Relationship between Fathers and Daughters	Mr. Peter Crowley Int'l Council on Alcohol and Addiction, Kaiserswerther Straße 16, D-40882 Ratingen; Germany
Families having a Member with a Disability	Ms. Pauline Fairbrother MENCAP, 170, Queen's Road, London SW19 8LX; United Kingdom
Mothers Developing Toys for their Handicapped Children	Ms. Elizabeth Suzuki Fundación Suzuki; Charlone 1689, 1663 San Miguel, Buenos Aires; Argentina
Psychosocial Help to Refugee Families	Ms. Marina Ajdukovic School of Social Work/Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb; TRG M. Tita 4, 41000 Zagreb; Croatia
Children and Divorce	Ms. Audrey Curtis OMEP Vice-President Europe, Chantry Cottage; Halls Lane, Waltham St. Lawrence, Reading RG10 OJD; United Kingdom
The Specifity of the African Family	Mr. Pierre-André Aka ICCB Abidjan, 01 B.P. 1721, Abidjan 17; Cote d'Ivoire
Values in the extended African Family	Mr. Aloysius Mugasa A. Uganda Kolping Society, P.O.Box 76, Hoima; Uganda
Promoting the Well-being of Family and Community in Botswana	Ms. Barbara Harvey Sheffield Hallam University, Totley Hall Lane, Sheffield S17 4AB; United Kingdom
The Extended Family in the South Pacific	Mr. Finau Tuuholoaki National Committee for IYF, P.O.Box 2300; Government Building, Suva; Fiji
Land for Poor Families in Mexico City	Ms. Maria de los Angeles Leal Asociación Mexicana de Economia Familiar, Zempoala 407; Col. Vertiz Narvarte, 03020 México, D.F.; México
Work of Cuban Women with the Family	Ms. Vilma Espin Federación de Mujeres Cubanas, Paseo 260; Vedado, La Habana; Cuba
Structure of Turkish Muslim Families	Ms. Fatima Mehlika Misiroglu Ladies Education and Culture Society, Haseki Kadin Sok. no 1, Aksaray, Istanbul; Turkey
Family in the Mediterranean Area - A Psycho-Social Analysis	Mr. Francisco Mele/Argentina c/o Centro Italiano di Solidarietá, Via A. Ambrosini 129, I-00147 Rome; Italy
Family Values and Parenting	Mr. Jan R.M. Gerris Institute of Family Studies; University of Nijmegen, Erasmusplein 1-10, NL-6525 HD Nijmegen; The Netherlands

Situation of Families After the Changes in Hungary	Ms. Agota Benkö Nagycsaládosok Országos Egyesülete, Marcius 15. tér 8., H-1056 Budapest; Hungary
Assistance and Therapy of Romanian Family during the Period of Transition	Mr. Nicolae Mitrofan Sos. Pantelimon, 248-250, Bl. 59-60, Sc. B, Et.3, Ap. 77; Sector 2, Bucharest 73553; Romania
Difficulties of Parenting in Croatia Today	Ms. Dubravka Males Petrinjska 69, 41000 Zagreb; Croatia
The Russian Family in Transition	Ms. Akimushkina Irina Ivanova c/o University of Maryland, College Park, College of Journalism, Maryland, MD 20742-7111; USA
Family Breaks in Ukraine in the Conditions of Socio-Economic Crisis	Ms. Lakiza-Sachuk National Institute for Strategic Studies, Pirogov Street 7-A; 25030 Kiev 30; Ukraine
Integral Plan for the Catalonian Family	Mr. Antoni Calvo Generalitat de Catalunya; Pl. Pau Vila 1, E-08003 Barcelona; Spain
Care for the Dying - The Austrian Model	Mr. Werner Wanschura Menschenwürde bis Zuletzt, Viktorgasse 14/10, A-1040 Wien; Austria
Presentation Family-Fest 1993	Ms. Ursula and Mr. Hermann J. Dörpinghaus New Families Movement, Wupperstraße 13, D-42651 Solingen; Germany
The Future of the Family	Mr. Djamchid Behnam CISS, 57 rue Auguste Lancon, F-75013 Paris; France
Human Family and Human Children in a Human World	Mr. Matthias Lu Int'l Association of Educators for World Peace, Box 3014; Saint Mary's College, Moraga; CA 94575 3014; USA
Peacemaking for Families in the World	Ms. Jacqueline Haessly Milwaukee Peace Education Center, 2437 N. Grant Blvd., Milwaukee; Wilsconsin; USA
Fourth World Families - Actors in Development	Ms. Francine de la Gorce ATD Quart Monde, 107 Avenue de Général Leclerc, F-95480 Pierrelaye; France
Handbook for Teaching Families: A Training Manual	Ms. Nancy B. Leidenfrost US Dpt. of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library Building, Rm 106, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, MD 20705; USA
Transitions in the Smallest Democracy - The Vital Role of NGOs	Ms. Geneviève A. Schroeder The Ohio State University, 315 Enarson Hall; University College, 154 W. 12th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210; USA
IYF - Mobilizing A Community	Mr. Ch. M. Vehlow & Ms. H. K. Cleminshaw Akron Child Guidance Center/University of Akron, 312 Locust Street, Akron, Ohio 44302; USA

An IYF Project at the Grassroot Level	Mr. Wolfgang Krug von Nidda SOS Kinderdorf International, Hermann-Gmeiner-Straße 51, A-6020 Innsbruck; Austria
Recreation: A Determinant of Family Cohesion	Ms. Ruth Nina ALATIR, Calle Serranía OA-5; Garden Hills, Guaynabo 00966; Puerto Rico
Family in the Course of the Years	Mr. Ricardo Figueroa Sistema Integral de la Familia - DIF - Jalisco, Apartado Postal 88-040, C.P. 01402 México, D.F.; México
Project Presentation "Families of the World"	Ms. Hélène Tremblay Families of the World, Herengracht 386, NL-1016 CJ Amsterdam; The Netherlands
Presentation of the IYF Theme Song	Ms. J. Reinach Northdale Communications, One Lincoln Plaza/9U, New York; NY 10023; USA